



*Listen to the audio file EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES and try to fill in the gaps in the text below. The answers are on the following page (but hey! ... don't cheat, ok?).*

September the 26th is the European Day of Languages. The Council of Europe and the European Union (EU) created \_\_\_\_\_ 6th of December 2001. \_\_\_\_\_ encourage language learning across Europe. Other objectives are to alert the public \_\_\_\_\_ of languages to increase multilingualism and intercultural understanding, \_\_\_\_\_ rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe. All Europeans are encouraged \_\_\_\_\_ language. The founders of this day also hope those responsible for providing access to language learning are encouraged to \_\_\_\_\_ people to learn languages. There is an emphasis on learning a language other than English.

There are about 225 languages \_\_\_\_\_. This is about three per cent of the world's total. With an increase in immigration to Europe, the continent \_\_\_\_\_ multilingual. The EU says over 300 languages are spoken in London. \_\_\_\_\_ EU survey 56% of EU citizens speak a second language. However, 44% only know \_\_\_\_\_. English is the most widely spoken second language, with 38% of Europeans speaking it. This is \_\_\_\_\_ for French or German. Around 14% of Europeans say they have mastered one of these languages. The EU spends more than thirty million euros a year \_\_\_\_\_ learning and linguistic diversity.

## KEY / ANSWERS

September the 26th is the European Day of Languages. The Council of Europe and the European Union (EU) created the day on the 6th of December 2001. Its main aim is to encourage language learning across Europe. Other objectives are to alert the public to the wide range of languages to increase multilingualism and intercultural understanding, and to promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe. All Europeans are encouraged to take up a new language. The founders of this day also hope those responsible for providing access to language learning are encouraged to make it easier for people to learn languages. There is an emphasis on learning a language other than English.

There are about 225 languages native to Europe. This is about three per cent of the world's total. With an increase in immigration to Europe, the continent has become more multilingual. The EU says over 300 languages are spoken in London. According to an EU survey 56% of EU citizens speak a second language. However, 44% only know their mother tongue. English is the most widely spoken second language, with 38% of Europeans speaking it. This is much higher than that for French or German. Around 14% of Europeans say they have mastered one of these languages. The EU spends more than thirty million euros a year promoting language learning and linguistic diversity.